

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (New): A method of assessing the extent of vascular injury in a subject who has not had a myocardial infarction, comprising:

determining the level of pentraxin, PTX3, in a test sample from a subject compared to a control value;

wherein an increased level of pentraxin in the blood of the subject compared to the control value is indicative of vascular injury;

wherein vascular injury is described by at least one of the following histological parameters (a) lipid core size, (b) thickness of fibrous cap, (c) strength of shear stress, and (d) extent of inflammatory infiltration.

Claim 22 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein said test sample is obtained from a subject who does not have dementia in relation to a cerebrovascular disease.

Claim 23 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein said test sample is obtained from a healthy subject.

Claim 24 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein said test sample is obtained from a subject who has hyperlipidemia.

Claim 25 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein said test sample is obtained from a subject who has cerebral disease.

Claim 26 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein said test sample is obtained from a subject who has hypertension.

Claim 27 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein said test sample is obtained from a subject who has diabetes.

Claim 28 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein said test sample is obtained from a subject who has obesity.

Claim 29 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein said test sample is obtained from a subject who smokes.

Claim 30 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein the sample is blood.

Claim 31 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein the sample is plasma.

Claim 32 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein the sample is serum.

Claim 33 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein determining the level of pentraxin comprises detecting pentraxin with an antibody to pentraxin.

Claim 34 (New): The method according to claim 21, wherein determining the level of pentraxin comprises detecting pentraxin with an antibody to pentraxin that is immobilized on a carrier.

Claim 35 (New): The method according to claim 21, wherein determining the level of pentraxin comprises detecting pentraxin with an antibody to pentraxin that is immobilized on a chip.

Claim 36 (New): The method according to claim 21, wherein determining the level of pentraxin comprises detecting pentraxin with an antibody to pentraxin that is immobilized on a carrier and a labeled antibody that binds to pentraxin.